





(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)  
**MARGARET BYNG.**  
 BY F. O. PHILIPS  
 (AUTHOR OF "AS IN A LOOKING-GLASS")  
 AND  
**PERCY FENDALL.**

## CHAPTER I.

## THE MAN IN POSSESSION.

It was a smart little house enough in South-street, Park-lane, but somehow to other it had an unaccountable air. The day was one of those sunny days that dwellers in London may expect towards the close of November. A curious-looking man, whose occupation could never have been guessed save by the initiated, but who seemed a sort of combination of prize-fighter, policeman, and East-end potman, knocked at the door. He himself was dressed warmly and substantially enough, and wore a thick coat of Irish frieze calculated to defy any weather, but the unhappy-looking little man who followed at his heels, and now and again gazed up submissively into his face, was wretchedly clad in thin and tattered garments, and indeed was as miserable an object as could well be imagined.

The burly man not receiving any answer knocked still louder, and as that seemed to produce no effect, louder still; and then he rang the bell so violently that he nearly wrenched the handle off. At last a maid-servant appeared at the door and inquired his business.

"Is Mr. Byng at home?" asked the burly man.

"No, he ain't."

"When do you expect him?"

"Don't know."

"Is your mistress in?"

"No."

"Well, I shall have to see some one. I am the officer of the sheriff of Middlesex, and I've got a warrant for a hundred and eighty-two pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence, and if it ain't paid I shall have to leave a man here to look after the house."

"The unhappy-looking little man who followed at his heels, and now and again gazed up submissively into his face, was wretchedly clad in thin and tattered garments, and indeed was as miserable an object as could well be imagined."

"Well, here's a go," said the servant. "Perhaps after all I shall be able to find means."

"Yes, I thought you would," said Mr. Braddick, for that was the sheriff officer's name, "and look sharp, there's a good girl; time's money with me."

A few minutes later Mr. Braddick was shown into the drawing-room, where he found the lady of the house.

Mrs. Byng was quite young, apparently about twenty-five years old. She was singularly beautiful; her work was done in the face, and she had eyes of peculiar lustre, a perfect nose, and if her mouth were perhaps a little too wide, in shape it resembled the ace of hearts, and when opened disclosed pearly teeth. It was, however, a somewhat determined mouth, and a judge of character looking at its owner would have said that she was a woman who, once having put her hand to the plough for good or evil, was not likely to turn back. For the rest, Mrs. Byng appeared weary and ill, and worried, and considering her present circumstances, this was not altogether remarkable.

"What's this?" she asked. "An execution, I suppose?"

"Yes, ma'am, that's about it. It's at the suit of Madame Eugenie. A hundred and eighty-two pounds odd. Do you wish to pay it?"

"No, I cannot pay it," she said. "I must telegraph to my husband."

"Very well, ma'am, then I must leave my man here. You'll find him a very quiet, decent chap, who wouldn't hurt a fly, and as long as he is properly treated, he'll keep himself out of the way. We always leave him when we can for jobs like this. You're very lucky to get Guttridge. We've got one or two men at the office who are puffed blackguards."

"Is that all?" said the lady wearily.

"Yes, ma'am, that's all as far as I know. But if Mr. Byng'll go up to Mr. Ezekiel's in Chancery-lane, he'll find him a very nice gentleman, and there'll be no difficulty in settling the matter. If Mr. Byng hasn't got the money handy—and I know that many of you swell folks are short at times—Mr. Ezekiel will be able to get it for him. He's a very kind-hearted gentleman as Mr. Ezekiel, and I'm sure he'll do anything to help a gentleman, let alone a lady like you," he added gallantly, gazing with undisguised admiration at Mrs. Byng's charms.

"Well, if that's all, I'll say good day," said Mrs. Byng. "Perhaps you will ask your man to go into the kitchen."

"Certainly, ma'am, certainly," said Mr. Braddick, who still lingered on the threshold, probably in the hope of receiving a douceur. But if this was the case he was disappointed, and soon afterwards he took his departure, leaving Mr. Guttridge master of the situation.

Mr. Braddick had not been guilty of exaggeration when he told Mrs. Byng that she was fortunate in the disposition of the visitor who had thus been thrust upon her. Unhappily for those who are in pecuniary difficulties, men in possession are not, as a rule, of an accommodating or even an ordinarily civil disposition. No one would take to the occupation if he were fit for anything else or could get anything else to do; and the sheriff's officer, consequently, cannot afford to be too nice in the choice of the man who follows at his heels. The man in possession is dismissed the service for misconduct. A man of this kind at once proceeds to establish a reign of terror—requiring food and drink at unreasonable hours, smoking filthy tobacco, and doing everything that suggests itself to his evil mind as likely to give annoyance. There is nothing to be done with a ruffian of this kind except to bribe him. His victims have no choice but to submit to his whims, and to do as he says, and to collect evidence in support of them, and would get but little redress if they entered upon the law.

The only real remedy is to bring the fellow before a police magistrate, and, apart altogether from the miserable publicity of such an investigation, it is exactly what the offender himself would probably welcome. He would pay his fine or undergo his short term of imprisonment, and be at once marked out for future employment in his calling as a smart man for an awkward case.

Mr. Guttridge, however, was of an entirely different type; he was a sort of pensioner of Mr. Ezekiel, and obtained his position through that official's wife. The very sight of him was depressing. He always suffered from asthma, or chronic cold in the head, or something or other that made him physically unpleasant. His infirmities were aggravated by his garrulity. If he received the least encouragement, he used to press upon the mistress of the household what he himself intended as consolation and advice. He drank tea inordinately. But he ate little, and was easily conciliated by any courtesy which showed him that he was regarded as an ordinary Christian. When he was not coughing or sniffing he was usually asleep. It was difficult to conjecture what he might have been. He was clearly respectable, and had probably failed in some small business or calling from want of health, or energy, or both. He will probably end in the workhouse, while his bullying or extortionate brother-officer is almost certain to retire in a few years as the fortunate proprietor of a beer-shop.

When all is said and done, the sheriff's officer and his subordinates are, at their worst, men of honour, courtesy, and even kindness compared with the gentlemen who represent that legal instrument of torture, the bill of sale, in the various stages from its preparation and signature down to the almost inevitable conclusion of wreck, pillage, and, too often, downright theft.

The door had scarcely closed on Mr. Braddick when there was another ring at the bell, and in a few moments a gentleman of the name of Sharker was ushered in. Now, Mr. Sharker was a tenth-rate money-lender, whose loans were, as a rule,

secured by that terrible instrument known as a bill of sale, and Mr. Byng, having nothing else upon which he could raise money, had recently effected a loan with Mr. Sharker upon the security of the furniture at South-street. Needless to add, the instalments had not been punctually paid, and Mr. Sharker called on this occasion, determined, as he had told his chief clerk and trusty lieutenant, while the gentleman in question was helping him on with his coat, that he would have his money from those Byngs or know the reason why.

"Sit down, Mr. Sharker, if you please," said Mrs. Byng. The money-lender did as he was asked, glancing round the room at the same time, apparently unable to conceal his anxiety as to whether any of the goods had been removed or not.

"I can guess the object of your visit, Mr. Sharker," said Mrs. Byng. "You have called for the overdue instalments on your bill of sale."

"Yes," replied Sharker, brusquely, "that's what I've come about, ma'am. I'm very angry with Mr. Byng, very angry indeed. He has always been in arrears from the very first; I've treated him like a gentleman, and that's more than he's done me, humbugging me with a lot of promises that have never been kept. I don't understand such ways."

"Well, Mr. Sharker," said Mrs. Byng, "I can only say I am very sorry. It is not my fault."

"I don't say it is, ma'am. But it's nothing to do with me whose fault it is; that don't concern me. What does concern me is that I don't get my money, and I've come to give my ultimatum. If those overdue instalments ain't paid by twelve o'clock to-morrow, I shall put the bill of sale in force and send my man down to cart away the goods."

"You surely won't do that, Mr. Sharker?" said Mrs. Byng.

"I shall, ma'am, and you'll be good enough to tell Mr. Byng so."

"But we have paid you very heavy interest, Mr. Sharker; surely you will wait a little longer."

"I don't call it heavy interest, ma'am," said Sharker, "especially when one don't get it."

"Well, I call it heavy interest, Mr. Sharker. You lent us a hundred and fifty pounds, and we had to give you a bill of sale for three hundred and twenty."

"Well, that's only a fair rate of interest," said Sharker.

"It is over a hundred per cent."

"I don't know what per cent it is, ma'am. I don't count per cents. I've no doubt it comes to a good bit with the expenses of preparing the documents and one thing and another. Of course it mounts up."

"Yes, Mr. Sharker, it does mount up, and I think that, under the circumstances, you ought not to be so hard upon us," said Sharker.

"I have not been hard upon you," said Sharker. "I have let you do just as you like with me."

"Well, I don't know about that, Mr. Sharker. I fancy it is the other way; I think you have done just as you liked with us. In your advertisement you profess to lend money at five per cent. without publicity, and you said that no security was required. Now you have charged us with a hundred per cent, you have taken a bill of sale and registered it, so that there has been every publicity; and, as for lending the money without security, you have had the security of this furniture, which you now say you are going to take away."

"Well, ma'am," said Sharker, "I didn't come here to argue with you or with anybody else. I've got my legal rights and I intend to enforce them."

"Surely you will give us another week or so?" said Mrs. Byng.

"Not another day, ma'am—not another hour after twelve o'clock to-morrow. I said I'd come to give my ultimatum, and that's what it is, so now good day."

"Good day, Mr. Sharker. I dare say my husband will be with you before the hour you mention."

"Very well, ma'am," said Sharker, "but mind, it's no use his coming without the money. Fine words and promises don't keep my office open, and that's about all I have had from Mr. Byng up to now. So if he don't bring the money with him he may save himself the trouble of calling. Be good enough to tell him that. Good day."

And thereupon Mr. Sharker took his departure. Mrs. Byng, however, was not so easily satisfied. "This is the climax," she thought. "Byng, this is the climax. I don't suppose Hubert will get the money from his father, but even if he does, what's the use of paying Eugenie, especially if this infernal wretch is in a position to strip the place a few hours afterwards. And we can no more pay his instalments than we can fly. Then there are the taxes. The collector is a very civil man, but he says that he will get into trouble himself if he is not paid immediately. Then there is the rent nearly two quarters over due. What on earth will become of us?"

A few moments afterwards Mrs. Byng summoned the maid-servant.

"I hope that man is behaving himself downstairs."

"Lor' bless you, yes, ma'am. He seems a civil spoken, quiet person enough."

"Well, make him as comfortable as you can in the kitchen, and bring me a sheet of paper and an envelope."

Then she wrote—

"Dear H.—

Eugenie has just issued execution for one hundred and eighty-two pounds, and a horrid man has been left in possession. For God's sake go to your father immediately and get the money. If Sharker, the bill of sale man, hears of this he will sell us up without mercy. I am certain your father will help us if you only press him sufficiently. Come back here the moment you have any news.—Yours,

MARGARET.

Mrs. Byng addressed the letter to Hubert Byng, Phoenix Club, Park-place, St. James's, and handed it to the maid, bade her send it there by a commissionaire with all possible speed.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE BYNG MENAGE.

On that cold foggy evening, in the drawing-room which had evidently known smart days, but which was now shabby and undusted, and before the fire, was the crouching figure of Mrs. Byng, carefully keeping it alight by feeding it with small pieces of coal, which she placed on it tenderly, as though they had been bits of gold.

It was a miserable fire, and gave but little warmth, and the only other light in the room was a solitary candle, which seemed ashamed of being there at all by itself.

When Mrs. Byng had finished attending to the fire, she got up and took a cigarette from the mantelpiece, and seating herself as near the fender as possible, she proceeded to smoke with an air of weary resignation and martyrdom.

Occasionally she glanced round the room with an indifferent look as if she were vaguely searching for a book or a newspaper, but if so, she was too lazy to get up and fetch it, so she continued by the fireside warming her feet and puffing up columns of smoke to the ceiling, while a sarcastic smile played about her lips.

Mrs. Byng had now reached what she considered the lowest stage of poverty. She had never been rich at any period of her life, but until the last few days she had not known what it was to want for food or to have an unpleasant visitor in the house in the shape of a man in possession. The only daughter of a colonel in the Army, she had been much spoiled as a child. Her mother had died while she was quite a baby, and thus it was that she had never known any of a father's love, that she had never known any of a father's love, that she had never known any of a father's love.

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so long as she could lead a new life far away from the perpetual pinching and sewing and hopeless endeavour to make both ends meet—a task as herculean as that of successfully performing a similar experiment with parallel lines. When Margaret Heathcote came out, her father left the Army and took her abroad, hoping that the competition in the matrimonial market on the continent was not so keen as in England. They visited many watering-places, all of which they left without paying their bills, and Margaret was getting thoroughly sick of it. Plenty of men admired her, for she was a fine handsome girl, but none of them offered to marry her. It was well understood that she had no money, and foreigners are not given to marrying portionless daughters of retired English colonels. Before very long the poor girl got weary of it all, and often begged her father to take her back to England, but the old gentleman had so many pressing debts there, and moreover, had become involved in a somewhat unpleasant dispute with the authorities at the Bankruptcy Court—who since Mr. Chamberlain's beneficence towards unhappy debtors as they were wont to do before the passing of the measure—had preferred to remain on the safe side of the Channel.

It was at Spa that the Heathcotes met Hubert Byng, who was by way of taking the waters there, but who indulged far more largely in bacchanal and carousal. This young gentleman fell in love with Margaret at once, and she with him. Her love was not, perhaps, very idealistic or passionate, but, as we have said, she longed to change her life, and the man who could enable her to do so was worthy of everlasting gratitude and affection. The worst of it was, however, Hubert Byng had no fortune to offer with his hand. He told her that he would marry her at once if she liked, but that they would have very little to live upon. "For," said he, "I am the younger son of a younger son, and my father only allows me two hundred a year. Whether he would increase it or not if I married you is more than problematical; in my judgment, he would do nothing of the kind, for he would be certain to be furious at the marriage. He always impressed upon me the necessity of marrying a girl with money. However, I will do exactly what you like."

Margaret said she did not care; she was accustomed to poverty, and would willingly share it with him. She could be quite happy on two hundred a year, and his relations would probably get him some appointment, which would increase their income.

Colonel Heathcote, however, did not view the prospect in this romantic light. After his daughter had broached it to him he sternly forbade her ever to speak of it again, and threatened to leave Spa at once if ever she exchanged another word with Mr. Byng.

But the lovers took the law into their own hands and left Spa together before the father's threatened departure could take place. They were quietly married at Brussels, and then wrote to their respective parents for assistance and forgiveness.

Colonel Heathcote never forgave his daughter. As she should make a brilliant marriage, and he was woefully disappointed when he found that she had rendered this event impossible.

The Byngs were more charitable. Hubert's father wrote to his cousin, the Earl of Comber, and begged him to do something for his son. The result was that before long the young man obtained a secretarialship to a London club worth four hundred a year, with the two hundred added to his father's allowance the young people considered themselves rich, and they furnished a small house in South-street and settled down to enjoy life. But Hubert was unfortunately fond of gambling, and soon made his appearance at a West-end baccarat club, and having become a regular habitué of it, he neglected his duties at his own club, with the result that, after frequent warnings from the committee, he finally lost his secretarialship. Still he did not mind that. His luck had been very good, and he was rather pleased to be able to lie in bed half the day when he had been sitting up all night playing cards.

Mrs. Byng was very happy in those days, and gave pleasant little dinner parties, and went a good deal into society. Her husband won large sums, and they had every luxury they could wish for. Everybody liked her, and most people pitied her; they thought that she was very much neglected by her husband, and that it was a shame she should be left so much alone, while he spent his time in gambling. Margaret laughed at this. She knew that it was to do very successfully for herself, and that her husband was a good deal of a gambler, and she was very pleased to think that she possessed such a never-failing source of income. They existed thus for about two years, and then Hubert's luck deserted him, and it did not take him long to lose back the large sums he had won. Still, they continued to hope that he might have another "run," but the run did not come, and they were obliged to live on credit. This they managed to do very successfully for a year, and then their creditors began to get doubtful, and their tradespeople became abusive and left whenever they chose to do so, and Margaret felt that she had got back to an existence which painfully resembled her old life with her father.

For a time Hubert utilised his friends for small loans varying from five to one hundred pounds, but he had now exhausted them all, and there was not a single individual from whom he could borrow a shilling. Then, too, he was a defaulter at Tattersall's, and his name had been posted at both the clubs to which he belonged. There was, as we have seen, a bill of sale on the furniture, given to that amiable gentleman, Mr. Sharker, who gave a pleasing way of taking the bed from under his clients—as he was accustomed to call the fies that found their way into his web—if they should happen to make default in any of the instalments they had agreed to pay, and to complete the situation, his wife's jewellery was being taken care of by an eminent pawnbroker.

Mrs. Byng, it must be admitted, had done nothing to ameliorate the position or avert the impending crash. She had always been a little extravagant, and had spent the money as fast as her husband had won it. Her dressmaker's bills had been outrageous, but Hubert had never given her objection to being worried by these gentry and threatened with "proceedings." There was a lady in Bond-street of the name of Eugenie to whom Mrs. Byng owed over one hundred and fifty pounds for bonnets and various other little trifles, and Madame Eugenie, seeing that there was no chance of having her bill paid, had issued a writ in execution. The Byngs were then at their last gasp, and it was under these circumstances that Margaret Byng wrote to her husband begging him to see his father and to try and wring the money from him with which to pay out the sheriff.

Margaret was momentarily expecting her husband's return, and she had scarcely smoked a couple of cigarettes before he suddenly made his appearance.

(To be continued.)

CHARGE AGAINST RAILWAY PORTERS.

At Derby on Thursday, George Marshall and Alfred Richardson, railway porters, were remanded, charged with stealing upwards of £200 worth of jewellery, the property of the Midland Railway, their employers. The prisoners were locked up for stealing pork pies from a hamper in transit, and the jewellery was found at their lodgings, it having been stolen from a hamper in transit at various times. The prisoners are both young men.

TO THE DEAF.

A person cured of Deafness and Noise in the Head of twenty-three years' standing by the use of the "Deaf Cure," a medicine which he applied to his ears, St. Botolph's, London, W.C. (Lancet).

## JACK ALLROUND.

The utilisation of our native herbage is decidedly on the increase. I have had three letters this week asking how dandelion leaves are to be made into a salad. Two of my inquiring friends wish for the French method, or a French dressing for dandelion salad. In France, and elsewhere on the continent, the dandelion is frequently used with excellent effect combined with sorrel, tarragon, and other leaves in mixed salads, and my correspondents may like to experiment in that direction; but what is distinctively called a French salad is never mixed, but consists of only one sort of vegetable. The fact that the French are eminently careful in all the small details that belong to the preparation of food is what makes their economic cookery so successful, and if you mean to do justice to the inexpensive and wholesome qualities of the dandelion you must be careful also, or the result will be failure. Do not wait till the plants are in flower; the older they are the more bitter they get; gather them early in the morning or late in the evening, when they are tender. Gather them on a midday, especially in warm weather. Select well grown, healthy plants; if you have to carry them far, draw up the whole plant by the roots, or cut close above the root. When about to dress them, if the plants have become a little withered you must put them in water for a short time to make them crisp, but leaving any salading too long in water spoils it. If quite fresh, simply rinse them through water, and then immediately dry them carefully. This is of the utmost importance; the best way to do it is first let the water drain off, then shake the leaves in a colander, and then put them in a clean napkin or towel, hold it by the corners, and lightly shake till the salad is dry. A French salad is torn into small pieces, never cut. Do not prepare either salad or dressing till just before it is served, and on no account mix the two until the last moment; use a wooden fork and spoon for mixing. Many people pour the dressing into the bowl, and lightly toss the salad on the top, not mixing until it comes to table.

A French dressing, excellent for either cold fish or vegetable salad, is the following. Take two hard-boiled eggs, keep the whites by you; break a raw egg, separate the yolk, throw the white into boiling water to harden it, put it with the other whites, now mash up in a bowl the two hard-boiled yolks, moistening them with the raw yolk, add two saltspoons of salt, a little pepper, and a tiny pinch of cayenne, then take three tablespoons of oil, and one tablespoon of either plain or tarragon vinegar, add very slowly, a drop or two at a time, alternately oil and vinegar, mix these two constituents by degrees with the eggs, and for flavouring according to taste add half a teaspoonful of finely shred onion, the same of chervil and tarragon if you have used plain vinegar with the oil. Two tablespoons of rich cream, or if you have not that, the same quantity of melted butter will improve the sauce, then chop up the whites of the eggs and add them to the salad.

"I have put up a small fowlhouse in my backyard, and roofed it with wood. It looks quite a snug cottage building, sloping roof, clean inside, and a good easel, and the rain comes in. Can you tell me what is best for covering the roof to make it waterproof and comfortable in winter time?" writes "Geo. G." You can buy at oil shops or at house painters' shops a felt stuff sold by the yard for roofing small buildings of the kind. It is cheap, and about two and a half feet wide, and narrower may be had. Before laying the felt on the boards, you must prepare a coating of whitening in proportion of five pounds of ground whiting to one gallon of coal tar. This must be boiled together to expel the water, and applied to the boards when warm. The felt, cut to the proper lengths, is then laid on. Be careful to stretch smooth and tight, and nail the outside edges closely with zinc nails or tinned tacks a little under an inch long. The second width of felt should lap the first at least one inch, and you should apply a little of the composition to the joint, and see that the tacks pass through both the thicknesses of the felt, and so proceed till the roof is covered, when the entire surface should receive a coat of the tar and whitening mixture, and will require a second coat three or four weeks later, after which it will stand for several years, and a fresh coat, when at last it begins to bleach, will make it good as new again. For the ridge on the top, two thicknesses of felt, cut in narrow strips, should be laid on. The above will also, we hope, be useful to "Snider Flatfoot."

In reply to "Lor," the method of proceeding for making lozenges is quite different from that lately given for making acid drops. For lozenges the sugar is not boiled at all, but dried in warm air. My correspondent wishes to make cough lozenges, for these or other sorts the first thing is to prepare a mucilage for binding the sugar together. Take say one pound and a quarter of gum arabic and dissolve it in a pint of water—I find the hot water bath the most convenient way of doing this—also separately dissolve half an ounce of gum tragacanth in a quarter of a pint of water; when both are dissolved mix and squeeze them through a piece of muslin; this will be sufficient mucilage for five or six pounds of fine powdered white sugar. You ought to have two slabs of marble, one on which to mix this paste and the other one on which to roll out and cut the lozenges. To the above you are to add three-quarters of an ounce of ipecacuanha, one and a quarter drachms morphia, a quarter of an ounce of aniseed, a quarter of an ounce of tartaric acid, and a sufficient quantity of extract of liquorice to colour the whole; mix in and work these together, much as you would a dough for baking, and when thoroughly blended roll out with a rolling-pin to about an eighth of an inch; use fine starch powder to dust the slabs as you work, roll, and cut your lozenges—plate tin lozenge cutters may be bought for a few pence. The next matter is how to dry them. Professionals have regular lozenge stoves, but the amateur may easily manage with a common wooden box; stand it on the side, nail wooden rods inside at either end, on which to run the cover of the box as a sort of loose door, allow plenty of ventilation for drying, and tie muslin over the whole to keep out the dust and smoke, place two bricks on the top of the oven, and your drying stove on them. When your lozenges are cut out, well dust over a shelf with the powdered starch, and place your lozenges carefully upon it. You must judge yourself when they are sufficiently dried.

If the marks on "J.R.'s" large sheet of plate looking glass have been caused, as he believes, by rubbing with rough dusters, the simple remedy which my correspondent, "Careful," has kindly sent me may help him to remove them, and will probably be useful to many of my readers. "Careful" says:—"I was much troubled at one time, particularly in damp weather, to clear away the dull smoky appearance of my looking-glasses, pictures, chandeliers, &c. It was continually clean, clean, clean, every few days, but to no effect. I thought the clouded appearance might have been in consequence of the glass looking at its worst in wet weather. At last I thought I would try paraffin, and I did so, with the result that now I only clean my glasses once in two months, and whether the weather is dry or wet, they always retain their proper lustre."

"J.B." (Wimbledon) asks for a recipe for pork pickle, and the following is, I think, as good as one I have got:—Into a large stew pan put two gallons of cold water, with three pounds of bay salt, half a pound of good moist sugar, and two ounces of saltpetre; bring it to the boil, strain carefully, and allow it to boil for twenty minutes; then turn it into a deep

pan, and when quite cold it is fit for the meat. Either pork, beef, or tongues may be kept in this pickle for three weeks in mild weather, though it may be used in five or six days, and the liquor in which it is boiled will be found not too salt for use for making soup. The pickle itself may be used repeatedly; add one pound of common salt, or half a pound of bay salt, whichever you please, and a pint of water every time you re-boil the pickle.

"Kindly give me a recipe for my hair, which is very thick and stiff, so that I am unable to part it; my head is also very irritable," writes "A.W." It is sometimes very difficult to make dry, stiff, and obstinate hair behave as its possessor would wish. The following, however, does sometimes answer if persevered in for a week or two, but should be modified or left off as soon as the hair becomes manageable, as such constant applications are not meant for a continuance. Half a tea-spoonful of olive oil to be rubbed every morning; the hair should be also daily washed in a mixture of five parts glycerine to fifty parts water, and while drying keep it parted, if possible, in the direction in which it most easily falls.

If the hair still persists in growing in a rowdy manner, you must train it by force—either keep it down with elastic at night or whenever you can, or use a hard pomade or simple cosmetic.

On the 1st of March 9th. Apply it to the roots outwards, making the hair at the parting to lie in the direction it should always have. It will probably become pliant enough in a few days. The comb and brush should be used freely, always in the direction you wish the hair to lie.

"N.C.S." can make excellent rock cakes if she takes three eggs and whisks them until they are light, then mix them with half a pound of powdered white sugar, a quarter of a pound of flour, and a tablespoonful of currants, washed and dried. Drop the dough in lumps over buttered tins, and with a fork make them look as rough as you can; bake in a moderate oven. On she may turn out very good rock cakes of a cheaper description by rubbing about a quarter of a pound of flour, add a pinch of salt, a teaspoonful of baking powder, a dessertspoonful of sugar, two or three grates of a nutmeg, and a handful of washed and dried currants. Mix the dry ingredients thoroughly, add enough milk or water to make a light dough, put them on the buttered tins, and rough them as before with a fork; they must be baked immediately in a well-heated oven.

The best I can do for "Aquarium" is to give him one of the very best aquarium cements I know of. From what he writes I fancy the cements he has tried are probably the cause of leakage, but, of course, I cannot say from his description whether the other materials are good and what the workmanship in putting them together may have been. Take of finely powdered litharge, fine white dry sand, and plaster of Paris, each three parts by measure, and finely pulverised resin one part; mix thoroughly and make into a paste with boiled linseed oil to which some dryers have been added, beat the mixture well and let it stand four or five hours before using, but mark that if it has stood unused for fifteen hours it will begin to deteriorate. Therefore it should be used before that period.

AN ALL NIGHT SITTING.

The Paignton Local Board concluded its annual meeting at six o'clock on Thursday morning, after sitting all night. There was a contest on political lines for the chairmanship, and the voting was equal—six against six.



## OUR OMNIBUS.

## THE M.P.

Opinion has rapidly crystallised respecting the Irish Land Purchase Bill during the recess, and now it may be said with confidence that the measure is certain to pass with little alteration. The only quarter from which effective opposition could come was from the Irish Conservative members and their English sympathisers, but careful study of the bill and contact with their constituents has convinced them that it is an honest and workable attempt to bring the land question out of the hopeless impasse which Mr. Gladstone's legislation, and that alone, has brought about. Of the satisfaction of the bulk of the Irish tenants with the provisions there is no doubt. Even those who belong to the National League have been slow to follow Mr. Parnell's lead in condemning it, and any one who takes the trouble to read the resolutions passed at their weekly meetings will see between the lines that they are ready and anxious to accept it.

Another success which is now quite within sight is the passage of the New Education Code. It appears now to be almost assured, for with every desire to trip up the Government, the Socialist party have been able to find any vulnerable point of importance. Mr. Mundella, who represents the fighting forces of the Opposition on this question, has expressed himself satisfied with the main details of the code, and there is no one in the Liberal ranks better qualified to judge of its effect. That the code will be popular in the country districts there is no question. It is calculated that it will give some £40,000 or £50,000 a year additional to the schools in the poorest districts, and these struggling institutions deserve every aid that can be done for them. The code has also passed successfully through the crucial ordeal of criticism at the hands of the teachers, and apparently satisfies their more urgent demands. It must be a bitter pill to Lord Sherbrooke to see his vaunted system of payment by results dethroned, but after the report of the royal commission it was doomed, though few thought the Government would have dealt with it so boldly. Sir William Hart Dyke will take, he deserves, the chief credit for removing a blot from our educational administration.

While honours are thus being prepared for one old Conservative whip, another—Lord St. Oswald, better known as Mr. Rowland Winn—is lying seriously ill from an apoplectic stroke, and though the latest accounts are more favourable, his many friends are most anxious about the result. The death of Lord St. Oswald would be a great loss to the party, as he has always been most active in local politics in Yorkshire since he left the House of Commons. It would, moreover, create a vacancy in the representation of Pontefract, where the seat is now filled by Lord St. Oswald's eldest son. The Gladstonians have recently selected a candidate in the person of Captain Wilson, who until not very long ago was an ardent Tory. The little Yorkshire town has had a chequered political history, but generally when it had two members divided its favours between the two parties. In 1885 it rejected Mr. Childers, moved there by indignation at his hundred million Budget. An election just now would be more doubtful, but the Conservatives have, it is believed, a fair majority.

Mr. Mundella has fallen foul of Mr. Mount, the Conservative member for Berkshire, for asserting that he had at one time described the Conservative party as the best friends of the working classes. This, to Mr. Mundella, is unendurable, and he denies it roundly, adding, "I have never introduced any measure calculated to benefit the working classes, nor can I call to mind any measure introduced by others, which has not, at the outset, encountered the strongest opposition from the Conservative party."

Two quotations from Mr. Mundella's speeches, as given in "Hansard," may perhaps be accepted as the best answer to this outbreak, which is particularly uncalled for at the present time. In introducing a Factory Bill in 1874, he said:—"The right hon. gentleman (Mr. Disraeli) said with truth that the Conservative party had always been the friend of the toilers, and had assisted in reducing the hours of labour, and that he was personally favourable to every measure that was calculated to humanise the toil of the people." And of the Factory Bill introduced by the Conservative Ministry in the same year, he said:—"It has always been recorded to the honour of the party opposite that they were the promoters of factory legislation when the party with whom I sit were its opponents, and for this the working classes feel to this day that they owe a debt of gratitude to the party now in power." May 6th, 1874, pp. 1,744 and 1,769. So much for the value of Radical protestations.

## OLD IZAAK.

I was pleased to note that at the last monthly meeting of the Central Association of London Angling Clubs, which was held on Monday evening and at which I was present, no less than twenty-one clubs were represented. The report and balance sheet having been passed, and the action of the committee in sending five guineas to the Thames Anglers' Defence Fund unanimously endorsed, the important business of electing officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Anglers will read with pleasure that Mr. C. A. Medcalf was re-elected president, Mr. J. Kelly, vice-president, Mr. W. J. Wade secretary, and Messrs. Farebrother, C. Watling, W. J. Wade, F. Atkins, G. Watling, S. Cane, and Patman were appointed to serve on the Anglers' Benevolent Society Committee, while Messrs. T. Crumplin, J. Wright, H. Pateman, A. E. Evans, G. Jacobs, W. Farebrother, C. Watling, G. Watling, S. Cane, F. Atkins, S. C. Harding, and J. Cully were chosen for committee work, and Mr. C. Watling was re-elected visiting officer. Ten guineas was unanimously voted to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the price of the privilege tickets was fixed at 1s. 1d., the odd 1d. being for postage.

It was with regret I heard Mr. Wade state that, owing to want of patronage the Brighton Company, had been compelled to cancel several stations on their line. To compensate this, however, as I previously stated, the company have added Ashurst, Hever, and Cowden to the list. I heartily join with Mr. Wade in the hope that the Brighton line will receive more support during the coming season, for I am sure I am speaking with the voice of those working men anglers who take advantage of these tickets when I say that this company deserve well of the angling public, and should therefore be supported.

An interesting item on the agenda paper was the enrolment of a new and promising society, called the Alma, which my readers will remember I mentioned a couple of weeks ago. The secretary stated that the rules of the new club were satisfactory, while the muster roll already totals some twenty-three or twenty-four members. This is a capital start, which it is to be trusted will be followed up, for there can be little doubt that the Alma, which came from the ranks of the best and, from the nature of its surroundings, one of the most recuperative pursuits for the average intellectual working man.

Every week it is my pleasant duty to chronicle the fact of a large quantity of fish being turned into the River Thames, and surely never has that river been so largely benefited by the addition of all kinds of fish. One thousand fine yearling trout, which came from Winchester, have been supplied the fish, liberally presented one half of the trout, through Mr. E. B. Marston, as a gift to the river. The fish were of remarkable growth, being from six to eight

inches in length, and all were in splendid condition. Only one fish was lost, which shows marvellous dexterity on the part of those who officiated.

It is gratifying to hear of an angler acting as Mr. Claude Johnson did at Pangbourne a day or two since. While spinning in the Whitechurch Fishery Waters he landed a trout measuring 24in., but as the fish was somewhat poor he returned it unharmed to the water. Mr. A. C. Poole, who was with Mr. Johnson, while fishing for trout with a small minnow, and the single-handed portion of a split-cane "Bickerdike" fly rod, had an exciting struggle with a pike weighing 8lb., which, however, he eventually landed, and returned to the water in true sportsmanlike fashion.

The Killarney Angling Tournament, which I mentioned a fortnight ago, was, I am glad to say, a success. Mr. James D. Curry was first in the amateur department, and Mr. W. Morrough was second, but owing to the disagreeable weather the bags were not large.

There are few anglers who are not acquainted with the familiar figure of Mr. G. H. Field, the popular president and treasurer of the South London Angling Club, but all the same there are few working men fishermen who will entirely coincide with him in some of his views expressed in an interview with a correspondent of my excellent contemporary, the *Fishing Gazette*. One remark especially I must single out for adverse comment. Mr. Field says:—"For my own part, I see no great objection to a rod tax, although I would much rather see the anglers voluntarily support preservation."

It is as well, I think, that Mr. Field inserted the words "for my own part." Mr. Field and other anglers of his class could, no doubt, very well afford to pay a rod tax, but the imposition of such a tax would, beyond doubt, have the effect of preventing numbers of working men enjoying their favourite pastime, which would be a great pity, seeing the beneficial effects of the sport. What would the hosts of some of our riverside inns (I mean those who cater for anglers) say to this. Their profits, I fancy, would show a considerable diminution.

Which again prompts the query: Should not these same hosts do something towards keeping the river stocked with fish, seeing what profitable customers anglers are? It would certainly be a graceful as well as a grateful act on the part of these gentlemen, could we hear of their aiding the good work, which would have the effect of attracting fishermen to their haunts and thus enable themselves to turn the "amiable penny" or shilling, as the case may be.

For the benefit of "A Constant Reader," who wishes to know if he can get any fishing in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells during the months of June and July, I may say that the nearest place for fishing to Tunbridge Wells is Tunbridge, where some very good coarse fishing may be had in the Medway. Accommodation is not "extra expensive," but very reasonable.

"Turkey" writes:—"Could you inform me of the heaviest pike caught at Birmingham and Coventry, or any where else?" This is rather tall order, but perhaps some of my readers in the neighbourhood of the two towns mentioned can help "Turkey."

## PIPER PAN.

The second performance of "Lurline" at Drury Lane was much better than the first. Miss Georgina Burns was less nervous and won a greater success. I doubt if this opera will regain the popularity it once held, the libretto, by Fitzball, being downright ridiculous in many respects. The chief personages, mortal and immortal, appear to be amphibious, and I found Rudolph enjoys himself equally when plunged "full fathom five" below the surface of the Rhine and when on terra firma. Absurdities of this kind are no longer to be tolerated.

The libretto is not only absurd, but ill written, with such rhymes as "home-bloom," "charismatic," "Much of the music is charming, and there are admirable passages in the orchestration, but the dead weight of the libretto crushes the opera; and although such melodies as "Take this cup of sparkling wine," and "Sweet spirit, hear my prayer," must always be admired, I found "Lurline" tedious. Ball operas, unless of surpassing merit, are not likely to become so popular as they were thirty years ago, when "Lurline" was produced.

I look forward with sanguine expectations to Mr. Cowen's new opera, "Thorgrim," which is announced for Tuesday next, and is said to be composed according to modern requirements: the vocal music being free from detached ballads, and confined to illustration of the dramatic situations and action. It must be owned that in this respect we owe much to Wagner's examples in "Tannhauser" and "Lohengrin," his later works are not likely to exercise influence of a similar kind.

A Wagner concert was given on Saturday, April 12th, at the Crystal Palace, and I was struck by the fact that the programme was restricted to the familiar selections often heard at the Richter concerts. There are, indeed, comparatively few things in Wagner's operas which are suitable to concert purposes, and I doubt if the additions about to be made to the Wagnerian concert repertory by Hans Richter will be sincerely welcomed.

The arrival of the greatest of female pianists, Sofia Mendelssohn, after some three or four years' absence from our shores, is good news for music-lovers. By the way, I notice that her baptismal name is often mis-spelt "Sophie." I have long been honoured with her friendship, and her letters are always signed "Sofie" Mentor.

I was invited to the opening soiree, on Wednesday last, of a new musical club, "The Band Singers." Many well-known vocalists assisted, but few ballads were sung. Payably the success of the "Meisteringers" Club led to the adoption of the title "Band Singers' Club," but Gounod's "Ave Maria" and Brahms's "Invocation of Brahms" are certainly not ballads. The concert gave much enjoyment to the large audience, including a number of guests, who were "served at moderate prices" with refreshments.

The prospectus of the club states that "tea, coffee, ices, minerals, and light refreshments are obtainable on payment—and I asked one of the refreshment servers for some "pyrites," and then discovered that "minerals" were not supplied, only "mineral waters."

I regret to say that my lamented friend, the late Dr. Wylde, left no will, although one had been in preparation many months before his death. The London Academy of Music, at St. George's Hall, will be managed by a committee of professors; a plan which has been eminently successful at the Royal Academy of Music.

Miss Fanny Moody, the charming prima donna of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, is about to appear in a new character, that of a wife. The fortunate winner of her hand is Mr. Charles Manners, the barytone-basso, who distinguished himself in "Iolanthe," at the Savoy Theatre, and also at the promenade concerts given last autumn at Her Majesty's Theatre.

For the professorship of music at Gresham College there are twelve candidates, ten of them English musicians, of whom the larger number are justly eminent. Two are by birth Germans—Mr. Praeger and Mr. Armbruster—both of whom are Wagner worshippers. I refrain from naming the English candidates, most of whom are my personal friends, but I must say that it would be a national disgrace were any but a native musician

elected to the professorship endowed by that typical Englishman, Sir Thomas Gresham.

I have much esteem for Carl Armbruster, although I do not think him qualified for the Gresham professorship. When we first became acquainted he was an amateur pianist, and at that time a terrible thumper of the pianoforte. That he would some day break the pianoforte keys or his own wrists was the prediction of Walter Bache, and I remember the roar of laughter from gathering of musical friends when Carl was announced by a newly-appointed servant as "Mr. Armbruster." His pianoforte playing has greatly improved since then.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Several newspaper correspondents have lately noticed the appearance in Kensington Gardens of wild birds which are rarely seen there. In one or two instances the visitor had, no doubt, escaped from imprisonment, and naturally betook itself to the first bit of woodland. But it would be an extraordinary circumstance if this explanation accounted for all the cases. Some time ago, when I was strolling through the gardens with a friend, a bird flew across at a short distance which was dependently identified as a cuckoo. Now, cuckoos will not live in captivity, and in this instance, therefore, the gardens afforded refuge to a genuine country cousin. Perhaps it has come to be known in rural birds that there are charming spots in London where plenty of food and water can be obtained throughout the winter.

Some very interesting observations have recently been made by a seaside naturalist on the strength of the limpet, from which it appears that this very familiar mollusc is the strongest known animal but one in proportion to its size. After a series of careful and accurate experiments it was discovered that it required a force of 22lb., or 1,984 times its own weight, to remove it from a rock. Sometimes the shellfish was found to weigh 15lb., and the same gentleman, having weighed fifteen fasting female fleas, found that each pulled, on an average, 1.43 times her own weight, which, though not so good a performance as the limpet's, is certainly not bad. The one creature which beats the limpet, and therefore can justly lay claim to the title of champion strong animal of the world, is a kind of cockle found in the Mediterranean, which pulls 2,071 times its own shell-less weight.

An obliging correspondent in the Central Provinces of India forwards me an account of the destruction of a man-eating tiger in the Hoshungabad district. It had carried off and devoured a native herdsman, when an Englishman, belonging to the survey department, hearing of the occurrence, resolved to either slay the slayer or be slain himself. By good luck he got a clear shot at the brute, and finished his career with a couple of bullets. On the same day, and in the same district, another English official accounted for a tigeress supposed to be a man-eater, and also finished off her four babies. The natives in many outlying parts of India would have a very hot time of it with tigers but for the sporting instinct which nature has implanted in their white rulers.

Mr. W. Parker Snow, author of "A Two Years' Cruise in the South Seas," mentions, with reference to parrots laying eggs in captivity, that he had a sulphur-crested cockatoo for twenty-three years, which, during that period, produced sixteen eggs without being mated. The bird was given to him in 1853, when quite young, by some of the Australian aborigines. It soon got quite attached to him and his wife, and accompanied him on all their subsequent travels, meeting many remarkable adventures. When it did die (not from old age, but from an accident), the regret of my correspondent was naturally extreme, and he states that even now he can hardly think of it without a pang of pain.

Mr. Smith, of Longbridge Deverill, Warminster, Wiltshire, who has often favoured us before with his observations, states that on April 14th, during the rough south-east wind, he saw two gulls flying over the fields directly against the wind and nearly touching the ground. This is unusually far inland for sea gulls. The same gentleman notes that he saw and heard the cuckoo for the first time this year on April 15th, the same bird not putting in an appearance last year till the 26th. "Querist" heard her at Hordham on the 10th and every morning since. The latter correspondent also states that it used to be a common saying in Sussex that "the old woman always lets her cuckoo out at Hefful, meaning Heathfield Fair, which takes place on the 14th. I heard the bird for the first time this year in Richmond on the 15th. Whether it has been heard there earlier this year I cannot say."

Among the live stock which are generally to be found in some part of my house, there are at present a pair of geckos, or wall-lizards, of Southern Europe. They are very curious creatures, both in their appearance and habits, and are easy to keep. Contrary to the usual run of lizard kind, which delight in hot sun, the gecko avoids the light of day and sallies forth at night in quest of flies and other insects. To enable him to progress on walls and other perpendicular places he is furnished with a curious sucker-like contrivance on each toe which presses on the smooth surface and enables him to walk on it with a sure foothold. He is much more skilled in this way than the tree-frog even, and will run with surprising swiftness up a pane of glass. His colour varies, but is usually dull yellow or brown. His skin hangs somewhat loosely on him. As he is a nocturnal reptile, his eyes are formed in a manner rather similar to those of the cat, and while the pupil is during the day usually represented by a mere slit, it is widely dilated at night so as to enable the lizard to see his way about. On looking at and considering creatures like this, one is forcibly struck by the wonderful manner in which nature adopts and modifies her handiwork so as best to fit the work it has to do. Other lizards and reptiles are employed to keep down the insects during the daytime; but, in order that the nocturnal flies, &c., shall not get off scot free, the gecko is despatched, like a night policeman, to look after them. He is accordingly provided with a pair of eyes which see in the dark as well as the light. In order that he need not rely solely on ground nocturnal insects, he is given feet such as to allow him to climb walls and help himself to aerial dainties also.

## THE ACTOR.

In fixing upon "She Stoops to Conquer" for revival, the managements of the Vaudeville and the Criterion have chosen an old comedy which has been singularly unhackneyed in London of recent years. If I remember rightly the play has not been represented at any West-end house since January, 1837, when it formed part of the repertory of Mr. Edward Compton at the Strand. Mr. Compton then performed Marlow, instead of his old part, Tony Lumpkin, which was assigned to Mr. Sydney Valentine. Mrs. Compton (Miss Virginia Bateman) was the Miss Hardcastle, whose parents were impersonated by Miss Elinor Aikin and Mr. Lewis Ball.

Mrs. Langtry, it will be remembered, made her professional debut as Kate Hardcastle; but the most notable of the latter day revivals of the work was that at the Imperial (Aquarium) in 1879, when Miss Litton was the heroine, Mrs. Stirling the Miss Hardcastle, Mr. Farnen the Marlow, and Mr. Lal Brough the Tony Lumpkin.

I was attracted to St. George's Hall on Tuesday evening by the fact that the members of the Old King's Club were announced to attempt the performance of a little known comedy of Mr. Gilbert's, "On Guard," a three-act piece which he brought out at the Court Theatre when it was under Miss Litton's management. The cast in 1879, when the Court company included Miss Litton, Mrs. Kate Bishop, Miss Maggie Brennan,

Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. Bighton, and the late John Clayton. Even these excellent artists, however, could not blind the playgoer to the tenacity of the plot, which the author sought to hide by the smartness of his dialogue.

No such dialogue is written nowadays, even by Mr. Grundy or Mr. Pinero, but one cannot pass a whole evening agreeably in only listening to a war of wits. One wants to be interested in a story, and of story "On Guard" has comparatively little. Nevertheless, I enjoyed myself on Tuesday, the performance was remarkably good, albeit the work of amateurs. One of the ladies walked and spoke as if she were her natural sphere, and the gentlemen were all surprisingly good. The amateurs are positively beginning to run the professionals very close.

The reproduction of Mr. Will's "Juana," curtailed and revised, at the Opera Comique the other afternoon, drew an audience which began by being curious and ended, apparently, by being interested. Mr. Will himself was a spectator of the representation, and so were Mr. George Alexander, Miss Genevieve Ward, Miss Harriett Jay, and other well-known people.

The surprise of the afternoon was the skill and ability shown by Miss F. Ivor, the performer of the title part. This lady is the wife of Mr. Leonard Outram, and I believe, has had comparatively little practice in front of the footlights. I remember her in a matinee show at the Princess's, but I gather that she learned most of what she knows as an actress at the Lyceum, where, I understand, she was under study to Miss Terry. I have heard she is a clergyman's daughter.

It may interest the reader to know that Mr. Wilson Barrett, Madame Modjeska, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. G. W. Anson, Mr. Norman Forbes, and Miss Amy Graham were all in the cast of "Juana" when it was first done at the Court Theatre nine years ago. Now Mr. Robertson, Mr. Anson, and Miss Graham are all "stars." Mr. Anson doing his "starring" at the antipodes.

There is quite a rage nowadays for the old time-honoured drama. The piece which Mr. Wilson Barrett is playing in front of "The Bells"—"The King and the Miller; or, Crumond Brig"—is just sixty-four years old. Mackay, the famous Scotch comedian, was the original Jock Howieson, and the play is a standard dish in Scotland. Mr. Irving himself appeared in it when he was in the stock company of the Edinburgh Theatre Royal (1857-9).

## GENERAL CHATTER.

The next Board of Trade returns will be scanned very closely by the commercial and speculative worlds. Should they prove disappointing, there will be a general disposition to do what the snail does on the approach of danger—draw in his horns. Among manufacturers it is believed that, although no immediate shrinkage of trade need be dreaded, neither does the outlook presage further expansion. If we could only keep matters as they are, we should do well enough, but all experience goes to prove that trade never stands at a dead level for any length of time. It is much to be regretted that the trade union leaders should remain silent about this critical position of affairs. They might, at all events, counsel the working classes to begin putting by something every week against the rainy day which seems to be approaching.

China has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of her great diplomatist and statesman, the Marquis Tseng. When he was in England I had the honour of making his acquaintance, and he impressed me as a conscientious and judicious man in his political views, and as a man of high character. His death is a great loss to the Chinese government, and his services to the world will be remembered with gratitude. The Marquis was a man of high character, and his services to the world will be remembered with gratitude.

An amusing bit of news comes from Lisbon. Some time back, the Portuguese Government ordered from an English firm a set of triple expansion engines for a new gunboat. The goods were duly delivered in excellent order, but when it came to fitting them up on board the gunboat the Portuguese workmen had to confess their inability. And so there they remain—the gunboat without engines, and the engines without a gunboat—staring at one another in blank dismay.

It would be no bad thing were a police regulation issued confining perambulators to specified thoroughfares of a quiet sort, where there is little traffic on the side pavements. The other evening I came across one of these nuisances, with two unfortunate babies inside, slowly making its way through the light-hearted crowd outside the Pavilion. The two dames in attendance seemed to consider that they were quite in the right place, but the unhappy infants shrieked incessantly, as well they might.

When passing through Endell-street last Monday morning I noticed a little boy and girl rush into the roadway, pick up a crust of bread, and set to work devouring it. A case of starvation? Apparently not; both were well dressed, scrupulously clean, and looked well fed. I imagine that it was the novel pleasure of being their own providers which instigated them to eat the refuse. But what a pathetic bit of writing might have been made out of the incident by an "alum" describer!

For really pleasant smoking, give me a seasoned clay pipe, whether "cutty" or "churchwarden." By "seasoned" I do not mean so saturated with oil that the material cannot absorb any more; a clay, or any other pipe in that condition, is simply poisonous, and should either be destroyed or, put by among other old family friends, for seasoning a pipe is sufficient when the smoke comes through it without acquiring any flavour from the clay and without heat. When once this stage is reached, you can go on using it without the slightest fear of nicotine poisoning until the oil begins to come into the mouth; then start a clean one, and so on. I feel assured that half the harm caused by smoking is due to the use of foul pipes, a practice immensely increased since briarwoods and their congeners came into fashion.

That spirits are habitually watered to a large extent at class public-houses and restaurants is beyond question. But are not customers largely to blame? They insist on cheapness irrespective of quality, and any publican who does not meet their wishes in the former particular stands a very good chance of finding his bar empty. I have known cases of spirits being retailed at a price which would only cover the duty of 10s. a gallon.

It is the same in the case of clothes and boots. The public sacrifice all other considerations to cheapness, with the result that manufacturers and retailers humour them by filling the market with worthless goods, which wear out in no time and never look well. Here is the real origin of "sweating"; it helps to diminish the cost of production, and that being the governing factor, manufacturers are compelled to resort to the hateful system. What does the "sweated" shoemaker do when he wants a new suit of clothes? He buys the cheapest, and thereby helps to "sweat" the journeyman tailor. Similarly, the latter shoes himself at the lowest possible cost, and so helps to keep "sweating" alive in the shoemaking industry.

In spite of all the ripping up of the streets that has gone on lately, one does not notice much increase of the electric light, either in public or in private. Is another "frost" setting in, like that the cold some years ago? At all events, the gas companies do not seem to be much alarmed, being

confident that they will always be able to undersell their rivals. Gas is by no means perfect as an illuminating agent, but the public have not used to its defects and put up with them for the sake of convenience.

With the re-assembly of Parliament, the London season of 1890 may be considered to fairly begin. I doubt whether it will be quite so brilliant as last year's, which was greatly helped by the Fife and Portland marriages. But the world of fashion will have a magnificent lion in Mr. Stanley, while it is quite on the cards, I understand, that the German Emperor may pay his royal grandmother another visit. Unless, however, business on the Stock Exchange improves considerably, there will be far fewer of the sumptuous entertainments which made money circulate so briskly last year.

## MR. WHEELER.

It is gratifying to my self-esteem to see that cycling opinion is coming round to the view I expressed long ago as to the superiority of broad tyres to narrow roadsters. The slight increase in weight is more than counterbalanced by the diminution of vibration, while when the roads are soft the broad tyre does not cut so deep as the narrow. I have not yet tried Messrs. Marriott and Cooper's cushion tyre, but hear good accounts of it as a diminisher of vibration; in the novelty of it is saved by making the rubber hollow instead of solid, an adaptation which has the additional advantage of increasing the tyre's elasticity.

In its last issue, *Wheeling* heartily endorses the favourable comments I lately made on the Ballot Box at Horsenden Hill as a pleasant resting-place. But the writer cavils at my describing it as "out Harrow way," contending that "out Ealing way" would give more accurate guidance. May difference of opinion never alter friendship! Nevertheless, I hold to my idea of the locality, finding full warrant for it in a large number of the district. This shows that Horsenden Hill lies considerably nearer to Harrow than to Ealing, whether you measure the distance as the crow flies or by road. Moreover, the postal address is "near Harrow."

The great thirist question once more obtrudes itself in a letter from an obliging correspondent, who recommends the afflicted to take a sip of cold tea and keep it in their mouths until the whole inner surface is thoroughly moistened. He affirms that a repetition of the process will not be required even by the thirstiest cyclist for two or three hours. That seems to bode a quietude, a wheelman who perspires freely becomes parched much more quickly than one whose skin action is sluggish. My own preference still runs to abstaining from all drink, whether alcoholic or temperance, while on the road, unless the distance be so long as to necessitate pulling up for luncheon. The other day I tried a twenty-five miles spin on this régime, and found that when once the thirst demon was exorcised he did not return.

There is no more difficult question to answer than as to the proper distance of the saddle shaft from the pedal axis. It is one of those questions which every individual must determine for himself, by the light of experience. One thing is certain; if the knees suffer from cramp after a reasonably long ride, there must be something wrong in either the position of the saddle or its height above the pedals. For myself, I prefer the saddle a bit back, but there are many to whom that position would be extremely uncomfortable. The best way is to test a variety of positions, until you find that which combines comfort and speed, and having found it, to mark the saddle pillar with a file. By the way, it would be an improvement, so as to other adjustable parts were graduated, so as to admit of quick adjustment for different members of a family.

The riding suits purveyed by the C.T.C. are, no doubt, of good quality and make, but they have the disadvantage of being very expensive. One can get a supply of quite equal value in the outside market at considerably less cost and with far less trouble. The C.T.C. makes a large profit—about 20 per cent., I believe—on its goods, instead of dealing, as it should, on the co-operative principle. This gain goes into the general fund, and purchasing members are thus taxed for the benefit of the non-purchasing. Which does not strike one as quite fair.

Some of the officials in Richmond Park seem to entertain a rooted antipathy to cyclists. The other day I saw a keeper pounce upon and severely admonish a wheelman for merely resting his safety against a tree some two or three yards from the road. "You mustn't bring them things on to the grass," said the jack-in-office, pointing with scorn to the machine. On another occasion, a boy on a tricycle got a nasty cropper going down to the edge of the hills, the machine rolling over on to the grass. Magnificent was the wrath of a keeper who came running up. "What 'yer mean by this?" he indignantly asked of the dazed lad; "don't you know no vehicles is allowed hore the road?" But when a scorching comes flying by at the rate of twenty miles an hour the man in authority discreetly prefers to look another way, having no wish to expand his lungs by going in pursuit of the delinquent.

Having tested a pair of small-ribbed cords, I pronounce strongly in favour of the material for either riding trousers or knee-breeches. It sits comfortably, does not wrinkle or chafe, and will stand an immense amount of wear. The only defect is that, being very closely woven, the ventilation is not quite so free as with the ordinary cycling clothes. A friend of mine has had a whole suit made of the material, dyed dark brown; he affirms that it is the most comfortable he has ever worn.

The best stuff for a tobacco pouch during hot weather on tour is silk. Get your wife to make you a little bag, O Benedick, against your next excursion, while you, disconsolate bachelors, next only give a hint to the girls of your heart's desire to alisk, in rubber pouches or leather bags, and being drenched with the heat, do not keep the tobacco moist, and one might as well smoke half dried snuff as their contents after a few hours under a grilling sun.

"What should I do with my saddle? A sharp ride has formed all along the centre, which cuts me severely." To this query, put by a correspondent who signs himself "A Novice," I have only one reply. Get rid of it at once; even if the ride were smoother down it would be sure to return, the saddle being either faultily constructed or of inferior material. Better to lay out a little money on a really good article than run the risk of serious physical damage by trying to tinker a bad one.

A report from Berlin says that Professor Tillmann, of Leipzig, has presented to the Berlin Surgical Congress the case of a patient who was regarded by the medical authorities as hopelessly consumptive. He removed the outer covering of his chest wall and the entire lower wing of the left lung, which was affected, and thus accomplished a perfect cure. Professor Tillmann now considers consumption curable, and the congress views his operations as a triumph of surgical science.

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**WISDOM, AND VIRTUE OF SOCIETY. THIS**  
**ORDER ALONE IS KNOWN TO BE THE TRUE**  
**PRESERVER OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED**  
**'THE PEOPLE.'—Vicer of Wakefield, chap. 19**

**THE BUDGET.**—Even the most captious Opposition critic must admit that the Government deserves credit for framing the Budget in such a way as to promote the happiness of the greatest number. While the well-to-do get little relief from it, almost all other classes of the population have their fiscal burdens diminished in one way or another.

Mr. GOSCHEN argues, with perfect fairness, that since the expansion of the revenue is almost exclusively due to increased receipts from indirect taxation, those who contribute to it are first entitled to relief. He consequently reduces the tea duty by one-third, at a cost of a million and a half to the revenue, and the wine duty by nearly one half of the

surplus at a single blow. The chief objection to this boon to tea drinkers is that, unless they are very vigilant, the trade will quietly pocket the reduction. Luckily, competition is so fierce among grocers, especially in tea, that it may be trusted to ultimately work down their profit on the article to the same level as at present. All the same, consumers should keep

a sharp watch, lest they be defrauded of the relief intended for them by the Government. The reduction of the duty on currants taken away £210,000, the main justification of the change being that Greece agrees to give an equivalent by lowering her duties on British goods. By transferring the extra duty of 3d. a barrel on beer to local government

revenue, Mr. GOSCHEN further reduces his surplus by £380,000. But the ratepayer will derive relief to that extent by a corresponding reduction of local taxation. The remainder of the surplus is apportioned to various purposes. Better barracks for our soldiers will absorb £300,000; the Volunteers get an additional £100,000 to defray the cost of

field equipment; £80,000 is set aside to cheaper postage to the colonies and India; the duty on gold and silverplate is swept away; finally, Mr. GOSCHEN allots more than half a million to graduated reduction of the tax on all houses under £60 a year, including total remission for lodging houses of all sorts. Whether this will reduce working class rents remains to be seen.

That is the intention and the hope of the Government, at all events, and, heavy as is the sum sacrificed, it will be well spent should the desired object be attained. On the whole, the Budget does justice all round, for even if the income-tax payer does not get direct relief, he is benefited in a number of indirect ways, common with those who are exempt from

particular burden. There is nothing sensational in Mr. GOSCHEN's scheme of financial adjustments, but the more it is looked into the clearer does it become that the Government has pursued, with a single mind, the cardinal object of diminishing the weight of taxation on those classes who are least able to bear its pressure. In a word, the Budget

purely democratic, both in essence and spirit, aiming as it does at diminishing the burden of the masses without a corresponding lightening of those borne by the classes.

**MR. PARNELL AND THE LAND BILL.**

The Irish leader has at last made up his mind as to what he is going to do about the Irish Land Purchase Bill. When it comes on

second reading next week Mr. PARNELL will move its rejection. It is, moreover, understood that he is fully supported in this step by the front Opposition bench. So Mr. GLADSTONE's amiable promise to give the bill a fair hearing has come to naught, and was evident, from his recent "railway speech" that it would. From the standpoint of

outside observer of English public life, it is melancholy to witness this persistent opposition to every measure that is brought forward in the interests of the Irish peasantry on the part of their self-styled friends. At the same time, from the point of view of party politics, it is not a bad thing that the public should have before them this convincing evidence of

Like PHARAOH of old, Mr. PARNELL "will let this people go" that they may escape from the national bog of poverty, discontent and agrarian crime which is inseparably connected in Ireland with the system of dual ownership of the land. The truth, of course, is apparent. Mr. PARNELL will not

he can help it, allow the Irish peasant to become his own landlord under the existing constitution, because he knows very well that such an event would deprive the Nationalist leaders of the one great lever, agrarian content, which has ever been potent in the hands of Irish agitators. For it is not much to say that if Mr. BALFOUR's bill, or any provision, became law, the bill, or

main provisions, becomes law and is as though made use of in Ireland as the Ashbourne has been, then the cause of Home Rule have received a blow from which it will scarcely recover. The Opposition are, indeed, put a very tight place by this bill. On the one hand, they are determined not to let Ministers get the credit of passing it, if they can by any means avoid it; on the other, they know

what to say to the Irish tenants, who will  
to know why they are not allowed to avail them-  
selves of a good offer. The success of the Land  
bourné Act has abundantly proved the  
demand for legislation of this kind. Naturally  
therefore, Mr. PARNELL and his followers  
alarmed at the prospect of a general conver-  
sion of discontent into content among the ten-  
ants of Ireland.

**POST OFFICE GRIEVANCES.**—Earl O'Connell brought before the House of Commons





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## 'THE PEOPLE' MIXTURE.

Sir Edwin Arnold tells us that there are very many Japanese ladies who understand English. At last it appears that the Tithes Bill is to be lightened by abandoning the redemption clauses. Over 28,000 persons have in all visited South Kensington Museum since its opening.

Moritz Grether, a saloon keeper, of Canton, Ohio, refused Henry Popp some liquor. The refusal cost him his life.

Rangoon is still afflicted with small-pox, and no wonder. The system of open drains in the streets prevails there.

The Archbishop of Tuam, the Ven. James O'Sullivan, has been appointed to the vacant bishopric of Tuam.

After a service in Canterbury Cathedral, the remains of the late Dr. Parry, Bishop of Dover, were interred in the graveyard of St. Martin's Church.

Shortly after seven o'clock on Monday a man named Charles Adams, landlord of the Odd-fellows Arms, Folkestone, jumped into the sea from the end of the pier.

Since the opening of the Home for Destitute Women and Mothers at Kilburn twelve years ago, more than 2,000 women have found refuge and help under its roof.

The meeting at London at which the Emin Pasha Relief Committee will welcome Mr. Stanley has been fixed for the 2nd of May. The Prince of Wales will preside.

The Queen, it is announced, will leave Aix-les-Bains on Tuesday next. A grand fête was organised on Monday by the inhabitants of the town in honour of the birthday of Princess Beatrice.

At a meeting at the Institute of Civil Engineers, Sir F. Bramwell described and exhibited a machine for welding metals by means of electricity, so as to supersede the use of rivets. The machine is on view.

A useful new departure of University extension is the arrangement of summer courses of practical lectures and demonstrations at the national institutions.

Madame Albani will not return to London quite so soon as was expected, as, after the opera season in New York closes, she proposes to go on a concert tour in Canada with Signor Lavelli and Signor Zardo.

There are big thieves in Austrian officialdom. A Vienna correspondent asserts that close inspection of the books has shown that frauds to the amount of 75,000 florins have been committed lately in the arsenal.

The Japanese are an extremely tidy people, and fold, brush, and put away their cherished dresses with a neatness which would charm and teach even an English country lady.

There is no subject on which the wags will not have their little joke. The latest on 'Change is that Stanley declares he never saw Emin Pasha. Why? Because there is no A in pasha.

In Denver, Rawlins county, Kansas, the father and mother of a family named Clebard disappeared some time ago. Their remains were, a few days ago, found in a well. Their children are suspected of the crime.

A letter was read from Mr. Sexton, M.P., at the meeting of the Dublin Corporation, enclosing a cheque for £400, being the surplus of his salary as Lord Mayor for two years, after meeting all liabilities.

News has reached the Church Missionary Society of the death of Mr. Alexander Mackay, of the Victoria, N.Y. Mr. Mackay, having been driven from Uganda, he retired to the south end of the lake, where Mr. Stanley found him in September.

The Duke of Cambridge presided at the annual meeting of the supporters of the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army. He explained that the financial position of the institution was a cause of anxiety, though the institution was doing a good work and deserved success.

The Earl of Carlisle on Tuesday opened the new museum at Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, to which the Ruskin collection has been removed from its less convenient position at Walkley. The noble earl and Mr. A. Severn addressed the meeting on the influence of Mr. Ruskin's work and teaching.

The War Office authorities having decided to call up the Army Reserve, a number of men, in accordance with special orders, have presented themselves at various barracks in London, as well as at other military centres, for the purpose of going through four days' drill with the new rifle just issued to the Army.

The Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales, was on her way to attend the West Norfolk Hunt races at Eastwiche, when the feet of one of the carriage horses caught in the rails at the level crossing near the Grimston-road Railway Station on the Eastern and Midland Railway. The mishap caused much consternation and delay.

At a meeting of freemen in Newcastle the mayor called attention, in connection with the recent colliery disasters in Wales, to the Hartley Accident Fund, stating that a sum of £25,000 was lying practically without claim upon it, and he suggested that some action should be taken with the view of making it the nucleus of a National Miners' Relief Fund.

Mr. E. Boulton, M.P., informed the Marylebone Board of Guardians at its last meeting that his duties in Parliament and in the County Council would preclude him from presiding over that body again; but he promised to occasionally assist the board in its work. Several members warmly eulogised the retiring chairman for his services during the past fifteen years, and a resolution was adopted expressing regret at his resignation.

Mr. Haden Corser, presiding at Dalston Police Court, gave his decision in the case where seven members of the Upper Holloway contingent of the Salvation Army were summoned for playing noisy instruments to call persons together. The magistrate dismissed the summonses, remarking that the defendants were playing to keep step and to accompany their hymn tunes, and were not playing noisy instruments to call people together. He, however, refused costs.

The new German Chancellor, at the opening of the Prussian Diet, made a statement which is said to have been received with warm approval by the House. The edifice of the Prussian State was, he said, cemented firmly enough to resist wind and weather. He had an undying belief in the future of Prussia and of the German empire, and promised to co-operate with all who were able to foster a monarchical feeling in Prussia and a national spirit in the empire.

An important step is being taken by the licensed victuallers to consolidate their existing defensive organisations. Hitherto there have been two bodies engaged in the work of defending the interests of the trade in and out of Parliament—the London and Provincial Defence League and the National Defence League. It has been decided to amalgamate these associations and constitute a central body, which shall act for the whole trade throughout the country.

A man named Morrison was charged at Greenwich Police Court with breaking into a house at New Cross and stealing property therefrom. The premises had been left on Sunday evening with no one in charge. A lady next door saw the man knock at the house and walk away. He returned, again knocked, and then burst the door open. The lady thereupon applied to a neighbour, who fetched a constable. When the prisoner was apprehended he said, "I'll confess; I have got the property on me." He was remanded.

A new Lodge of Freemasons, styled the Duke of Fife Lodge, was consecrated the other evening at the Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common. The lodge is numbered 2345 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, and the first Master is the late Master of Hampshire, who has consented to be elected an honorary member of the lodge. The

ceremony of consecrating the lodge was performed by Colonel Shadwell H. Clerk.

Durham produces more coal in a year than any other county in England.

Since 1876 the birth rate and death rate of London have been on the decline.

Princess Louise has two hobbies—painting and the collection of old silver.

One can be cremated in St. Louis for 25. This sum includes the price of an urn for one's ashes.

There are as many tigers as inhabitants in Annam, but the former are gradually getting the upper hand.

Tall men generally have long skulls, short men round skulls. Both have empty skulls occasionally.

It is said to be possible for a train to cross the Forth Bridge at the rate of a mile a minute without the slightest risk.

An infectious disease may easily be communicated by a kiss. Will the fact put a stop to kissing? Hardly.

In Germany the men as well as the women wear marriage rings. Should either die the survivor wears both.

The Sultan of Morocco has thirty-seven wives. His domestic affairs are more troublesome than his foreign relations.

There probably never was a small boy who did not feel sorry for his mother when he put on his first pair of trousers.

The newest thing in automatic machines is one that simply declines a penny and presents you with an advertisement.

The number of aliens arriving in London from European ports in 1889 was 9,843, compared with 10,353 in the previous year.

British and Irish emigrants in 1889 numbered 253,795; in other words, a population as large as that of Edinburgh left our shores.

Napoleon Bonaparte dictated and afterwards signed his love letters to Josephine—a somewhat formal method of love-making, surely.

Mr. Somervell, the new M.P. for Ayr, is so fond of his single eyeglasses that a story is told of his having bathed with it.

An M.P. says he knows M.P.'s who dine on eightpence and a shilling at the House of Commons.

Every night of his life Mr. Gladstone reads an hour before going to bed. If it is morning before he goes to bed, he still has his hour's reading.

The Gilbert Starch Works, near Des Moines, Iowa (U.S.), have been destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$300,000. Two hundred persons are thus thrown out of employment.

Ignatius Donnelly, having failed to prove that Bacon wrote Shakespeare, has become disappointed with the world generally, and given up his literary and political ambitions.

The population of Rome has decreased nearly 30,000 during the past four years. The hand-organ industry in this country has increased perceptibly during that period.

A member of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards is the tallest soldier in the English Army. He measures off 7ft. 10in., three-quarters of an inch more than a Scots Guard, who comes second.

The new duelling as practised in Virginia is to omit the bullets. The system is warranted not to hurt, and it satisfies wounded honour. It looks like a French invention.

In Buffalo the women disdain to sue for breach of promise. A Buffalo woman has coaxed and threatened the eyes of a man who had jilted her. She has had seven offers of marriage since.

Bismarck is what in Germany they call a "chain smoker," that is, he smokes from morning till night without a break, lighting one cigar with the end of the other.

The highest abode in Europe will be a hut that the Italian Alpine Club are to erect in memory of the Duke of Aosta on one of the summits of the Southern Alps.

The highest chimney in the world is one in connection with the imperial foundry at Hallebruche, in Saxony. When it is fully built it will be 450 ft. high.

The Chatham Railway is represented as having paid last year local rates and taxes to the amount of £228 per mile, the South-Eastern £246, and the Brighton £207.

Last week there were 54 fatal cases of measles in London, 12 of scarlet fever, 21 of diphtheria, 79 of whooping-cough, one of typhus, four of enteric fever, and 10 of diarrhoea and dysentery.

Soft soap and potash will gradually turn dark hair a bright mahogany colour, and sub-carbonate of potash will impart an old gold colour to any hair.

"Why should we burden the people to build ships that may go to the bottom as readily as an egg-shell?" was the answer of the late Emperor Frederick to a statesman who argued that Germany ought to have a great fleet.

Sir Henry Parkes, the "Grand Old Man" of Australia, has a lucky slip. He has stuck to it and it is to him since a friendless, ragged immigrant stepped ashore in Sydney half a century ago.

Sir Edwin Arnold recently visited a large and excellent school at Tokio, containing 1,000 pupils, with English and Japanese professors, where the students paid only one yen per month, that is to say, about 3s. 2d., for as much learning of various sorts as they could imbibe.

The future home of the Surrey County Council has been settled at a meeting of the council at Newington. The Sites Committee recommended Wimbledon, and amendments were moved in favour of Reigate, Epsom, Kingston, and Guildford. In the final voting Kingston was selected over Guildford by forty-two votes to twenty-eight.

The magistrate at Southwark Police Court imposed fines amounting to upwards of £21 on the owner of a house near the Blackfriars-road for failing to comply with the order of the sanitary authority to put the premises in proper sanitary condition.

The making of wooden shoes is quite a business in New York. Not only is there a big demand for wooden-soled shoes required by workers in certain trades, but for the wooden soles such as are seen in pictures of life abroad. French and German are the principal buyers of wooden shoes. These shoes cost about \$1.25 a pair.

Dr. Galtier, the celebrated physiologist, asserts that a person may become infected with hydrophobia through taking food or drink that has been used by an affected animal, through the inhalation of air impregnated with the virulent matter, or by the contact of the matter with the mucous membranes of the body.

Few people have any idea of the profusion in which oranges grow on the southern slopes of the Kasi Hills and elsewhere in Assam. The number imported last year into Bengal was 37,653,960. Yet it was a bad year, for more than 75,000,000 oranges came down the rivers the year before, and more than 40,000,000 three years ago.

A plague of rats and mice is reported from Romney Marsh, where the farms are overrun with these rodents. A few days ago, out of one stack alone no less than 5,000 mice were killed, and other instances are given of enormous numbers of rats, as well as mice, being turned out of stacks when pulled to pieces for threshing. Farmers attribute the plague to the fact of last year having been especially favourable for the breeding of this class of vermin.

An action to recover £10,000 as commission on the introduction of a purchaser for property in Chancery-lane and Southampton Buildings was tried by Mr. Justice Mathew and a special jury. The plaintiff, Captain Evans, managing director of the Anglo-Canadian Syndicate, relied on an agreement that he was to receive that amount in special jury cases, 333 Middlesex common jury cases, 58 London special jury cases, 33 London common jury cases, and 373 cases without jury. There is the usual large number of libel and slander actions and of claims for damages for

personal injuries, and several breach of promise cases are down for hearing.

We had 99,727 paupers in London in the last week of April—57,565 indoor and 42,162 outdoor.

The Channel Tunnel Bill will be set down for second reading on a Government day in about a fortnight's time.

The Duke of Westminster will open the new West Ham, Stratford, and South Essex Hospital on Wednesday next.

The Irish Land Commission sanctioned advances amounting to £1,395,506 during last year and up to the end of last month.

The coal required for the manufacture of gas as needed in London during 1889 cost no less than £1,593,300, or 479,669 more than in 1888.

The expenses of labour at the three gas companies distributing gas in London was in 1889 £249,884—an increase of 471,509 on the year.

On the tax books in a Manitoba district is so the Philadelphia Ledger says, this entry referring to some crown lands: "Owner, Mr. W. J. Wetlin; occupation, Queen's residence, England."

Lord G. Hamilton, M.P., attended a meeting of the Chiswick Conservative Association, and said he believed the Unionist party never stood stronger than now.

Not only in London, but in the provincial cities, there is a great and growing demand for the lighter brews of North and South Germany, Nether Austria, Bohemia, and Moravia.

As William Lloyd was driving a lorry down Union-street, Glasgow, he fell off into the road, alighting on his head. When the bystanders ran to him they found that he was dead.

It is believed that a servant who had been in the service of Mr. and Mrs. Newland, of Chicago, one day placed rat poison in some tinned meat. Mr. and Mrs. Newland are dead.

The gross amount of capital and borrowed money required to light London with gas in 1889 was £14,350,896, which is an increase of £129,273 on the figures for the preceding year.

Mrs. Mary Cooper, of Paterson, New Jersey, celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary a few days ago, surrounded by seventy of her descendants, including one of the fifth generation.

Mr. Augustus Harris promises soon to shine in another sphere of public life. It is understood that he has consented to be put in nomination for the office of sheriff of the City of London.

Mr. V. E. Walker, of Arno's Grove, Southsea, has presented to the Southsea Local Board fifteen acres of land at New Southsea, for the purpose of laying out public recreation-grounds for the inhabitants.

Another French centurion has just passed away in the person of M. Leon Brault, a wealthy landowner, who expired at his abode in the Boulevard Malesherbes, at the more than ripe age of 100 years and 9 months.

The heaviest hailstorm experienced in West Berks for many years occurred in the Newbury district on Wednesday afternoon. The hailstones were of unusual size and the storm so heavy that the streets and roads were quickly flooded.

It is stated at the War Office that Prince Albert Victor, on his return to England from India, is expected very shortly to rejoin his regiment, the 10th (Prince of Wales's) Hussars, at York.

It is notified in Army orders that the Queen, on the recommendation of the commanding-in-chief, has conferred the silver medal on 205 non-commissioned officers and men of the Army for long service and good conduct, this being the award for one month.

Three tradesmen were summoned to the Westminster Police Court, at the instance of the St. George's Vestry, for selling adulterated coffee in tins, on which was a notice that the preparation was a mixture of coffee and chicory. After an argument between the counsel and the magistrate, the summonses were dismissed, but without costs.

A resident of Hackney, William Elford by name, was a passenger from Northampton to Euston on Wednesday night, and, on arriving at Willington, left the train before it stopped, falling heavily upon his head. He was taken in an insensible condition to University College Hospital, where he died on Thursday.

A child named Dutton had died at Heywood from terrible injuries. It was being wheeled in a perambulator when a runaway horse, drawing a vehicle, dashed over it. A woman and another child who were with the perambulator were also run over and severely hurt, and the woman is not expected to recover.

The Rev. Edward Cadogan, rural dean and rector of Wicken, Stony Stratford, Northamptonshire, has shot himself dead at Wicken. The unfortunate gentleman had for some time past suffered severely from pains in the head, and it is believed that he took his life in the temporary absence of reason.

The sum raised for the testimonial to Mr. G. Livesey, chairman of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, already exceeds nineteen hundred pounds. The bulk of the money is to be handed to Mr. Livesey, who intends to lay it out in a manner that will result in the greatest amount of permanent good to the poor of South London.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, a children's fancy dress ball was given on Wednesday night at the Mansion House, the guests, including some adults, numbering between 800 and 900. An interesting feature of the gathering was a procession of the children round the Egyptian Hall.

At Leeds, Samuel Hirst, a money-lender, trading as Scott and Co., Albion-street, and Benjamin Colver, a commission agent, Hyde Park Corner, were charged on remand with having conspired to obtain corn and beans of the value of £290 by fraud from Messrs. Tapscott, Kitchen, and Neville, cornfactors, London, Liverpool, and Leeds. Both were committed for trial.

A serious fire occurred on Wednesday afternoon at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead. Immediately the alarm was raised the fire-extinguishing apparatus on the premises were got to work and also the engine from the local fire station. The fire burnt fiercely in the staircase and galleries and also in the main entrance; but fortunately the flames were soon overcome, not, however, until considerable damage had been done to the building and scenery by fire and water.

The libel action brought by Colonel Ridgeway against Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son was before the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Mathew on Wednesday. A judge in chambers had refused to allow interrogatories to be put to the defendants to ascertain what precautions they took against selling newspapers containing libels, and the plaintiff appealed. Their lordships thought the defendants' answers were sufficient, and they dismissed the appeal.

Samuel Boorman, a horse slaughterer, appealed at the London Sessions against a conviction for cruelty to a horse, by leading it a mile and a half along the streets after it had cast a hoof.

Two veterinary surgeons of high standing were called, on the injured leg more than a year before, and that the limb below the point where the nerve was severed would be insensible to pain. Experts were called on the other side who said there must have been great agony. The conviction was quashed.

The will of the late Sir John Maule, a bencher of the Inner Temple, was on Wednesday before the Probate Court. By the will as originally made the bulk of the property passed to the deceased's sister, but he afterwards wrote two sheets of the document, and on the third, which bore the attesting signatures, and disposed of the residue of the estate, bequeathed the word sister to brother, meaning Mr. F. B. Maule. Mr. Justice Butt said he could not understand how Sir John Maule could have acted in such a manner, but as all parties were agreed as to the testator's intentions, he pronounced for the will as altered.

## PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!!!

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HOLIDAYS free at London or the seaside. "Pain" guarantees to pay all prizes in full, no matter how long the Competitions, which are easy enough for every one. Men, women, boys, and girls, take now with Cash Prizes and good Wishes. May series of Competitions as follows:—Cash, Easy Course Competitions, No. 1.—Pain, 20s. and 20s. to be paid in full, no matter how long the Competitions, which are easy enough for every one. Men, women, boys, and girls, take now with Cash Prizes and good Wishes. May series of Competitions as follows:—Cash, Easy Course Competitions, No. 1.—Pain, 20s. and 20s. to be paid in full, no matter how long the Competitions, which are easy enough for every one. Men, women, boys, and girls, take now with Cash Prizes and good Wishes. May series of Competitions as follows:—Cash, Easy Course Competitions, No. 1.—Pain, 20s. and 20s. to be paid in full, no matter how long the Competitions, which are easy enough for every one. 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For this race Lord George was thought and

If Noble Chieftain failed to crown

a most successful début in the Fitzw...

The Visitors' Plate induced a big field

On the second day the Rehoboth Plate

...in the Green Stakes on the

Fain would I dwell on the success of

11

... and the ...

The amateur boxing championships were co-

**The final tie for the National Physical Rec**

The South London Harriers spring ath

North, South  
Fortunately for the reputation of the gath

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colours **Next week will be fraught with interest**

7st. 10lb. Amphion, Philomel, Theophilus

scarcely think he is good enough to win

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A party of twenty lads, ranging from 14 to 16

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**DANGEROUS SYMPTOMS.**

**FOR REMEDY** If you have a sense of weight or full-

**H**...  
FOR BITTERS.

If you have a dry, harsh, and yellow

Sold only in square, amber-colour

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**QUALITIS SPECIFIC.**

by removing Blotches, Pimples,

with health, instead of tearing it down.



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General Accidents. Personal Injuries.  
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 per annum.—Hon. EVELYN ASHLEY, Chairman.  
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<sup>hundred-ninth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-tenth~~ <sup>hundred-tenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-eleventh~~ <sup>hundred-eleventh</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-twelfth~~ <sup>hundred-twelfth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-thirteenth~~ <sup>hundred-thirteenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-fourteenth~~ <sup>hundred-fourteenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-fifteenth~~ <sup>hundred-fifteenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-sixteenth~~ <sup>hundred-sixteenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-seventeenth~~ <sup>hundred-seventeenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-eighteenth~~ <sup>hundred-eighteenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-nineteenth~~ <sup>hundred-nineteenth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-twentieth~~ <sup>hundred-twentieth</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-twenty-first~~ <sup>hundred-twenty-first</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-twenty-second~~ <sup>hundred-twenty-second</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-twenty-third~~ <sup>hundred-twenty-third</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~hundred-twenty-fourth~~ <sup>hundred-twenty-fourth</sup> <

Swithin's-lane, London, E.C. Bills discounted and advan-  
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& Sandringham-road, High-street, Kingsland.

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BENNETT, Practical Watchmaker, Accountant, and Jeweller, Trades, is now offering the Stocks of several Watchmakers at the following reduced prices:—The goods being cleared at the following prices:—Crystal Glass, 10s. 6d.; 12s. 6d.; 14s. 6d.; 16s. 6d.; 18s. 6d.; 20s. 6d.; 22s. 6d.; 24s. 6d.; 26s. 6d.; 28s. 6d.; 30s. 6d.; 32s. 6d.; 34s. 6d.; 36s. 6d.; 38s. 6d.; 40s. 6d.; 42s. 6d.; 44s. 6d.; 46s. 6d.; 48s. 6d.; 50s. 6d.; 52s. 6d.; 54s. 6d.; 56s. 6d.; 58s. 6d.; 60s. 6d.; 62s. 6d.; 64s. 6d.; 66s. 6d.; 68s. 6d.; 70s. 6d.; 72s. 6d.; 74s. 6d.; 76s. 6d.; 78s. 6d.; 80s. 6d.; 82s. 6d.; 84s. 6d.; 86s. 6d.; 88s. 6d.; 90s. 6d.; 92s. 6d.; 94s. 6d.; 96s. 6d.; 98s. 6d.; 100s. 6d.; 102s. 6d.; 104s. 6d.; 106s. 6d.; 108s. 6d.; 110s. 6d.; 112s. 6d.; 114s. 6d.; 116s. 6d.; 118s. 6d.; 120s. 6d.; 122s. 6d.; 124s. 6d.; 126s. 6d.; 128s. 6d.; 130s. 6d.; 132s. 6d.; 134s. 6d.; 136s. 6d.; 138s. 6d.; 140s. 6d.; 142s. 6d.; 144s. 6d.; 146s. 6d.; 148s. 6d.; 150s. 6d.; 152s. 6d.; 154s. 6d.; 156s. 6d.; 158s. 6d.; 160s. 6d.; 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1906s. 6d.; 1908s. 6d.; 1910s. 6d.; 1912s. 6d.; 1914s. 6d.; 1916s. 6d.; 1918s. 6d.; 1920s. 6d.; 1922s. 6d.; 1924s. 6d.; 1926s. 6d.; 1928s. 6d.; 1930s. 6d.; 1932s. 6d.; 1934s. 6d.; 1936s. 6d.; 1938s. 6d.; 1940s. 6d.; 1942s. 6d.; 1944s. 6d.; 1946s. 6d.; 1948s. 6d.; 1950s. 6d.; 1952s. 6d.; 1954s. 6d.; 1956s. 6d.; 1958s. 6d.; 1960s. 6d.; 1962s. 6d.; 1964s. 6d.; 1966s. 6d.; 1968s. 6d.; 1970s. 6d.; 1972s. 6d.; 1974s. 6d.; 1976s. 6d.; 1978s. 6d.; 1980s. 6d.; 1982s. 6d.; 1984s. 6d.; 1986s. 6d.; 1988s. 6d.; 1990s. 6d.; 1992s. 6d.; 1994s. 6d.; 1996s. 6d.; 1998s. 6d.; 2000s. 6d.; 2002s. 6d.; 2004s. 6d.; 2006s. 6d.; 2008s. 6d.; 2010s. 6d.; 2012s. 6d.; 2014s. 6d.; 2016s. 6d.; 2018s. 6d.; 2020s. 6d.; 2022s. 6d.; 2024s. 6d.; 2026s. 6d.; 2028s. 6d.; 2030s. 6d.; 2032s. 6d.; 2034s. 6d.; 2036s. 6d.; 2038s. 6d.; 2040s. 6d.; 2042s. 6d.; 2044s. 6d.; 2046s. 6d.; 2048s. 6d.; 2050s. 6d.; 2052s. 6d.; 2054s. 6d.; 2056s. 6d.; 2058s. 6d.; 2060s. 6d.; 2062s. 6d.; 2064s. 6d.; 2066s. 6d.; 2068s. 6d.; 2070s. 6d.; 2072s. 6d.; 2074s. 6d.; 2076s. 6d.; 2078s. 6d.; 2080s. 6d.; 2082s. 6d.; 2084s. 6d.; 2086s. 6d.; 2088s. 6d.; 2090s. 6d.; 2092s. 6d.; 2094s. 6d.; 2096s. 6d.; 2098s. 6d.; 2100s. 6d.; 2102s. 6d.; 2104s. 6d.; 2106s. 6d.; 2108s. 6d.; 2110s. 6d.; 2112s. 6d.; 2114s. 6d.; 2116s. 6d.; 2118s. 6d.; 2120s. 6d.; 2122s. 6d.; 2124s. 6d.; 2126s. 6d.; 2128s. 6d.; 2130s. 6d.; 2132s. 6d.; 2134s. 6d.; 2136s. 6d.; 2138s. 6d.; 2140s. 6d.; 2142s. 6d.; 2144s. 6d.; 2146s. 6d.; 2148s. 6d.; 2150s. 6d.; 2152s. 6d.; 2154s. 6d.; 2156s. 6d.; 2158s. 6d.; 2160s. 6d.; 2162s. 6d.; 2164s. 6d.; 2166s. 6d.; 2168s. 6d.; 2170s. 6d.; 2172s. 6d.; 2174s. 6



